SURVIVAL

Danger

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TH... THEY'RE STILL NEWLY MADE...!
TH... THOSE ARE GRAVES...!
UH...

横溝郷彦
有志一同
THANK GOODNESS I DON'T KNOW THEM...
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AT ANY RATE ... I CAN'T STAY AROUND IDLING ! I HAVE TO FIND SOME FOOD FAST. THEN MEET UP WITH MY FAMILY...
I CAN'T DIE LIKE A DOG BEFORE THEN...

THEY'RE SAFE ...
MY FAMILY HAVE TO BE SAFE...!

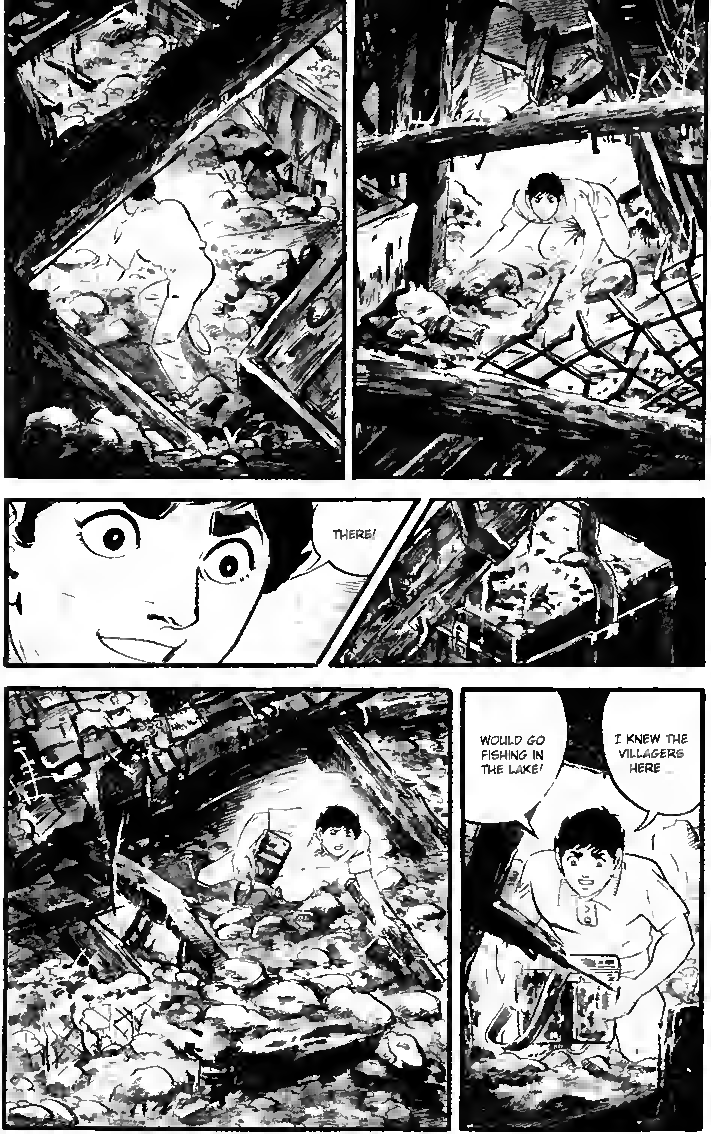
!
A LAKE!
IT'S A LAKE!

A—AH, RIGHT!

WITH A LAKE SO CLOSE... IT MEANS THAT THE VILLAGERS WOULD VE—

WAAA!

DAMN!


THERE!
I KNEW THE VILLAGERS HERE
WOULD GO FISHING IN THE LAKE!

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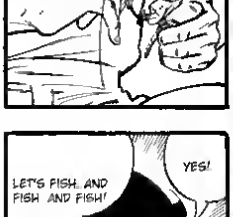
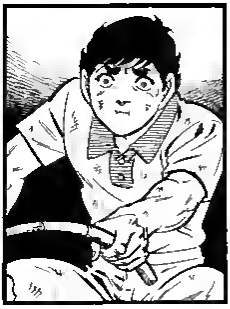
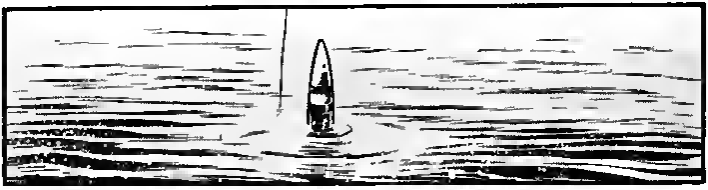
THAT WAS CLOSE TOO CLOSE...
IF... IF I'D BEEN A LITTLE SLOWER GETTING OUT... I'D HAVE BEEN BURIED ALIVE

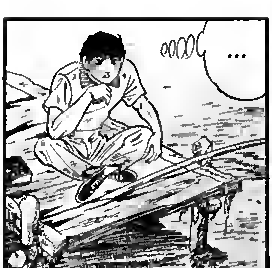
YOU'VE STILL SOME USE.
I LEFT YOU LOT AS I COULDN'T EAT YOU BUT...

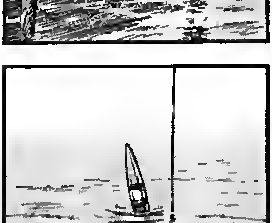

YES!
LET'S FISH. AND FISH. AND FISH!

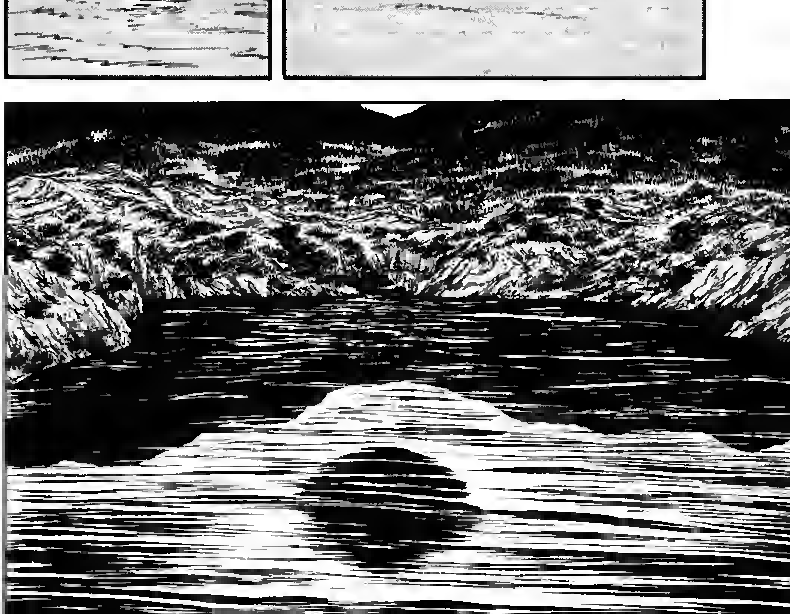


COME ON, COME ON MR FISH!
ALRIGHT!









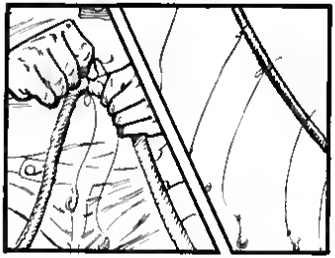
NOTHING'S BITING...

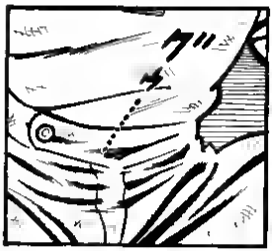
MAYBE I SHOULD CHANGE SPOTS...
THE SUN'LL GET SOON...

AT THAT MOMENT, THE BOY RECALLED A CONVERSATION HE HAD HAD LONG AGO WITH HIS FATHER...
...
DAMN IT NOTHING'S BITING...
ALL I'M DOING IS GETTING HUNGRIER.

THOUGH WE'D ALSO FISH WITHOUT RODS...
WE'D ALL MAKE OUR OWN...
HEEH... HOW ?
BACK WHEN I WAS A LAD, THEY NEVER SOLD NICE ONES LIKE THIS... NONE AT ALL...
HMM... THIS IS A REALLY NICE ROD...
NEXT MORNING WE'D NORMALLY HAVE CAUGHT SOME STUFF
THEN SUBMERGE IT OVERNIGHT IN THE MARSH...
WE'D GO TO A MARSH AND HANG UP A STRING... WE'D TIE A BUNCH OF WORMS TO IT...
HMM...
IT WAS DURING THE WAR, SO FOOD WAS SCARCE... WE WERE QUITE THANKFUL FOR IT...
WE'D GET CATFISH, SNAKEHEADS, BULLFROGS AND THE LIKE...

I'LL DO THAT!

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COME TOMORROW MORNING I'LL BE ABLE TO EAT AS MUCH AS I WANT—
H—HOLD IT TOGE-THER

I'M COUNTING ON YOU WORMS...!
CATCH A LOT OF STUFF!

BIG FISH WOULD BE GREAT

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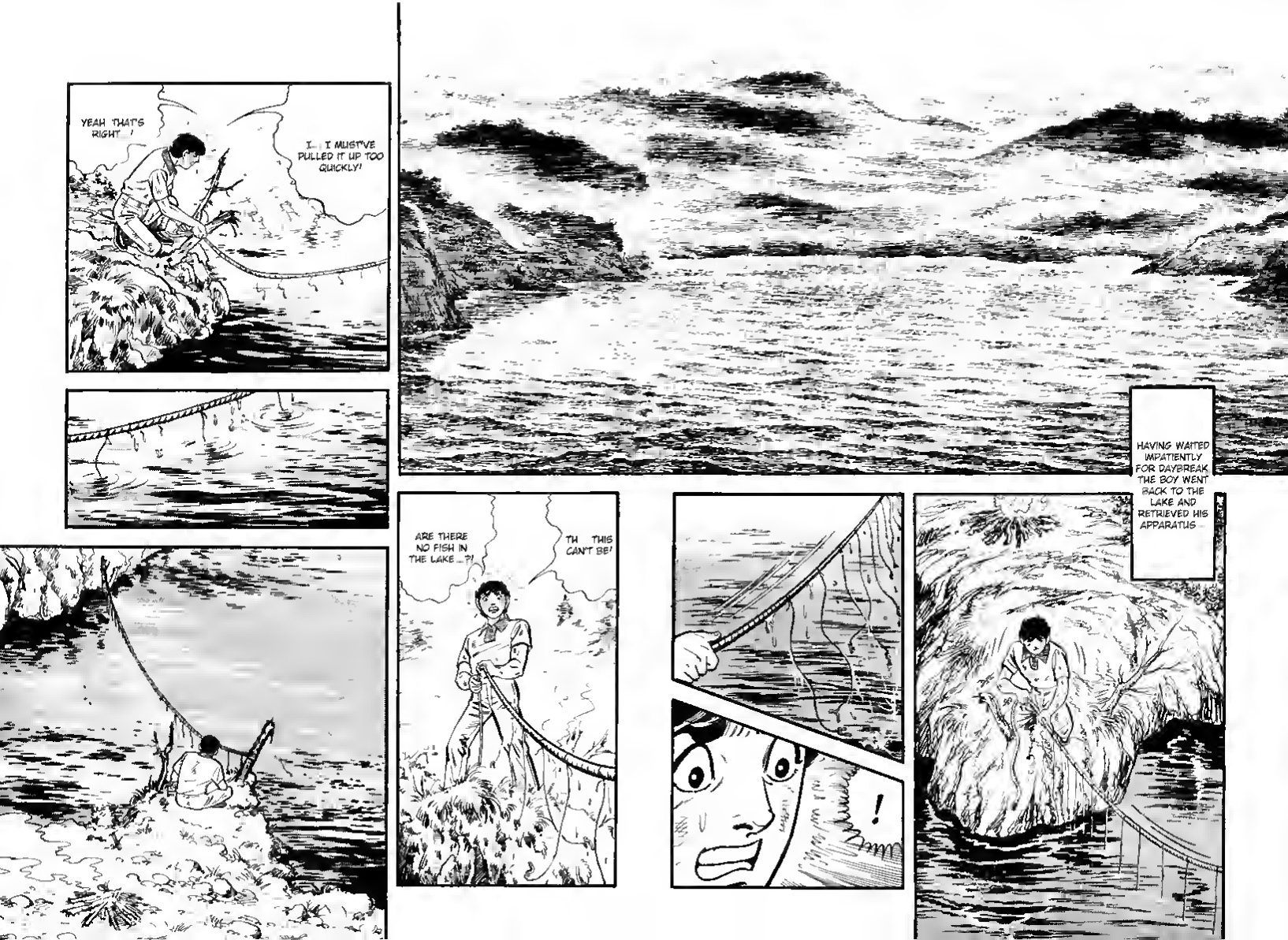
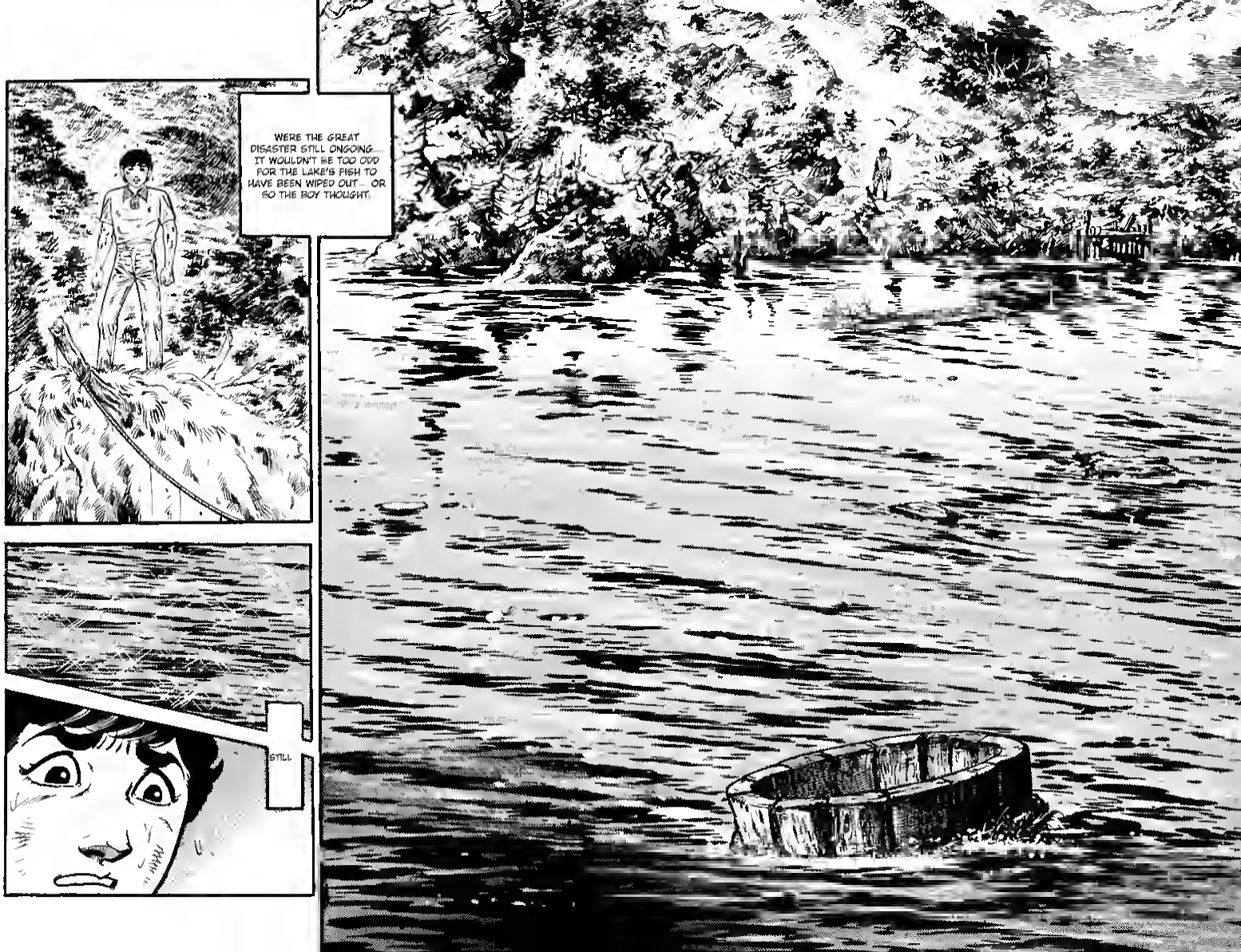
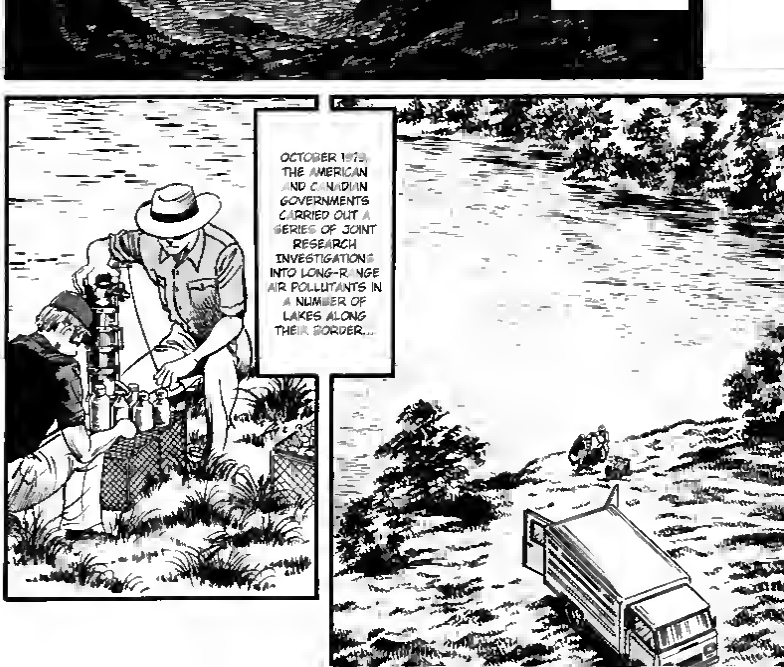
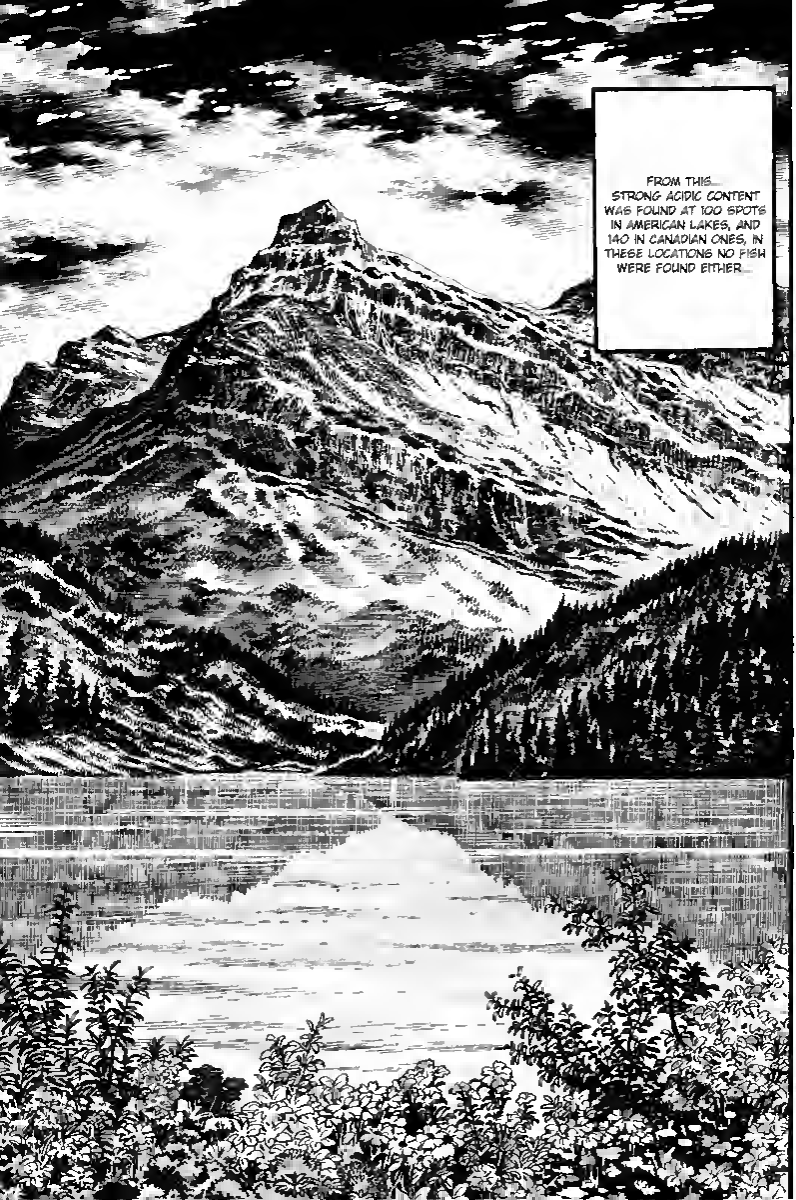

YEAH THAT'S RIGHT !
I... I MUST'VE PULLED IT UP TOO QUICKLY!
HAVING WAITED IMPATIENTLY FOR DAYBREAK THE BOY WENT BACK TO THE LAKE AND RETRIEVED HIS APPARATUS...
ARE THERE NO FISH IN THE LAKE...?!
TH THIS CAN'T BE!
!

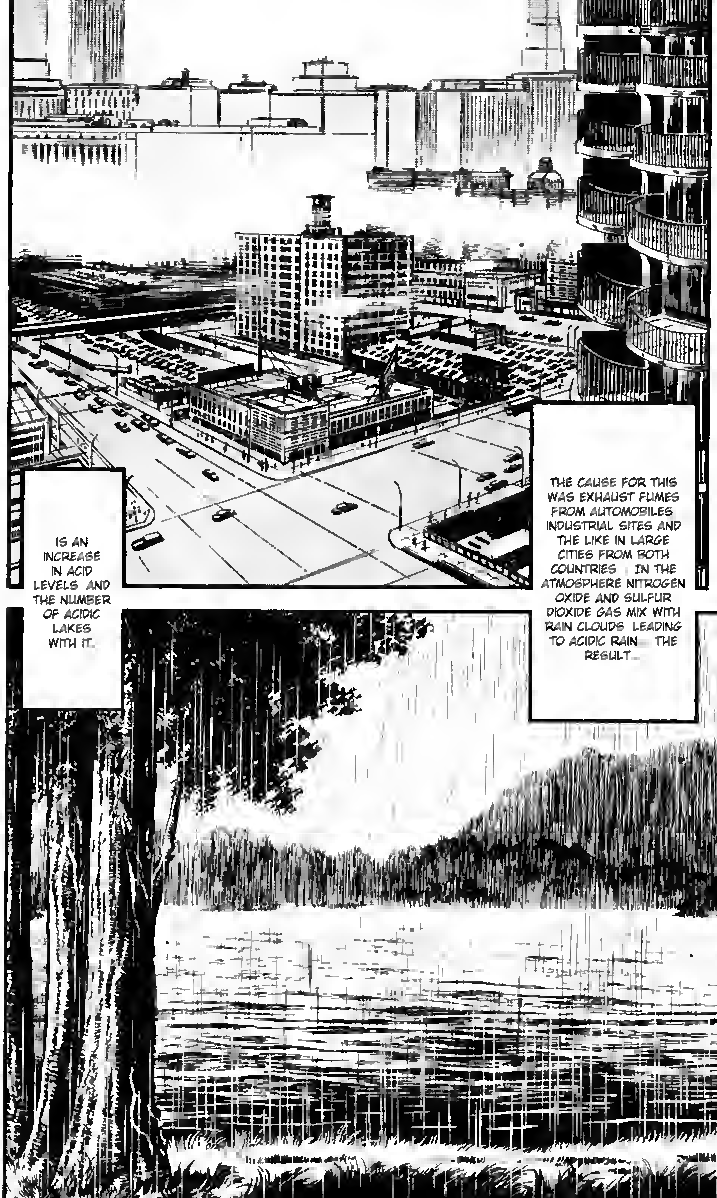

WERE THE GREAT DISASTER STILL ONGOING— IT WOULDN'T BE TOO ODD FOR THE LAKE'S FISH TO HAVE BEEN WIPED OUT— OR SO THE BOY THOUGHT.
STILL

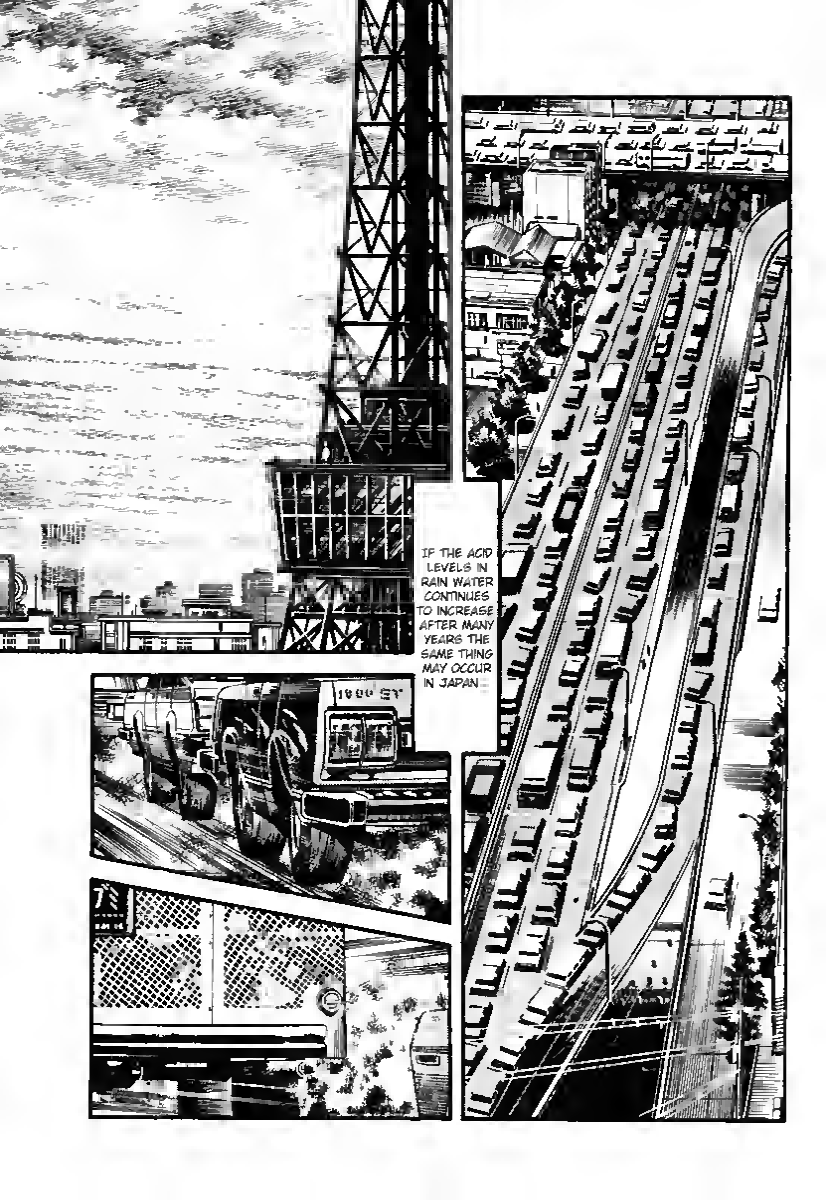
HE COULDN'T SAY FOR SURE

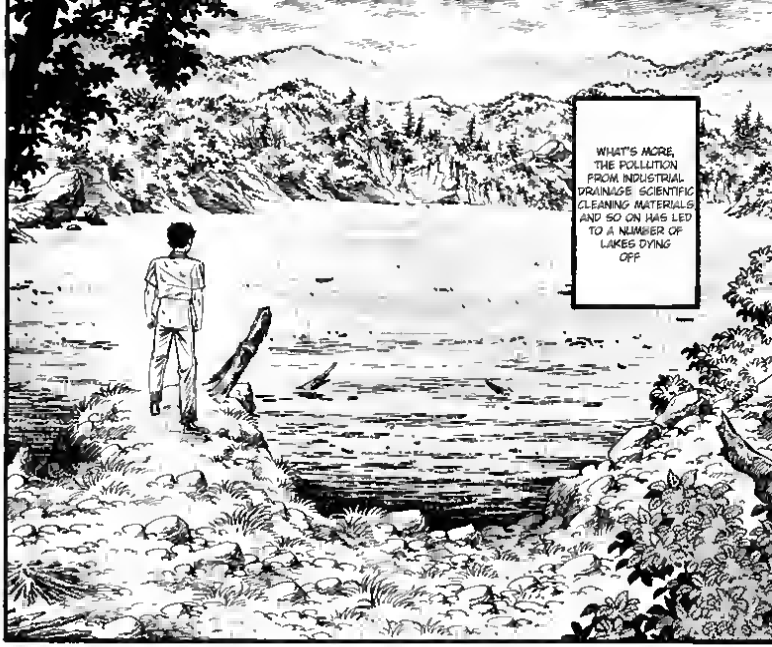
THE READER MAY BELIEVE SUCH A LAKE OF DEATH TO BE A FICTITIOUS NOTION, ONLY PRESENT IN STORIES LIKE THIS ONE... BUT COULD IT BE POSSIBLE IN REALITY?


OCTOBER 1973, THE AMERICAN AND CANADIAN GOVERNMENTS CARRIED OUT A SERIES OF JOINT RESEARCH INVESTIGATIONS INTO LONG-RANGE AIR POLLUTANTS IN A NUMBER OF LAKES ALONG THEIR BORDER...


FROM THIS...
STRONG ACIDIC CONTENT WAS FOUND AT 100 SPOTS IN AMERICAN LAKES, AND 140 IN CANADIAN ONES, IN THESE LOCATIONS NO FISH WERE FOUND EITHER...


THE CAUSE FOR THIS WAS EXHAUST FUMES FROM AUTOMOBILES INDUSTRIAL SITES AND THE LIKE IN LARGE CITIES FROM BOTH COUNTRIES. IN THE ATMOSPHERE NITROGEN OXIDE AND SULFUR DIOXIDE GAS MIX WITH RAIN CLOUDS LEADING TO ACIDIC RAIN. THE RESULT...
IS AN INCREASE IN ACID LEVELS AND THE NUMBER OF ACIDIC LAKES WITH IT.


IF THE ACID LEVELS IN RAIN WATER CONTINUES TO INCREASE AFTER MANY YEARS THE SAME THING MAY OCCUR IN JAPAN...


WHAT'S MORE, THE POLLUTION FROM INDUSTRIAL DRAINAGE, SCIENTIFIC CLEANING MATERIALS AND SO ON HAS LED TO A NUMBER OF LAKES DYING OFF

WHILE I'VE STILL STRENGTH LEFT
I HAVE TO GET SOMEWHERE WITH FOOD...
THERE'S NOT A SINGLE FISH LEFT IN THE LAKE. STAYING HERE WILL ONLY LEAD TO DEATH...

SHUT IT IDIOT!
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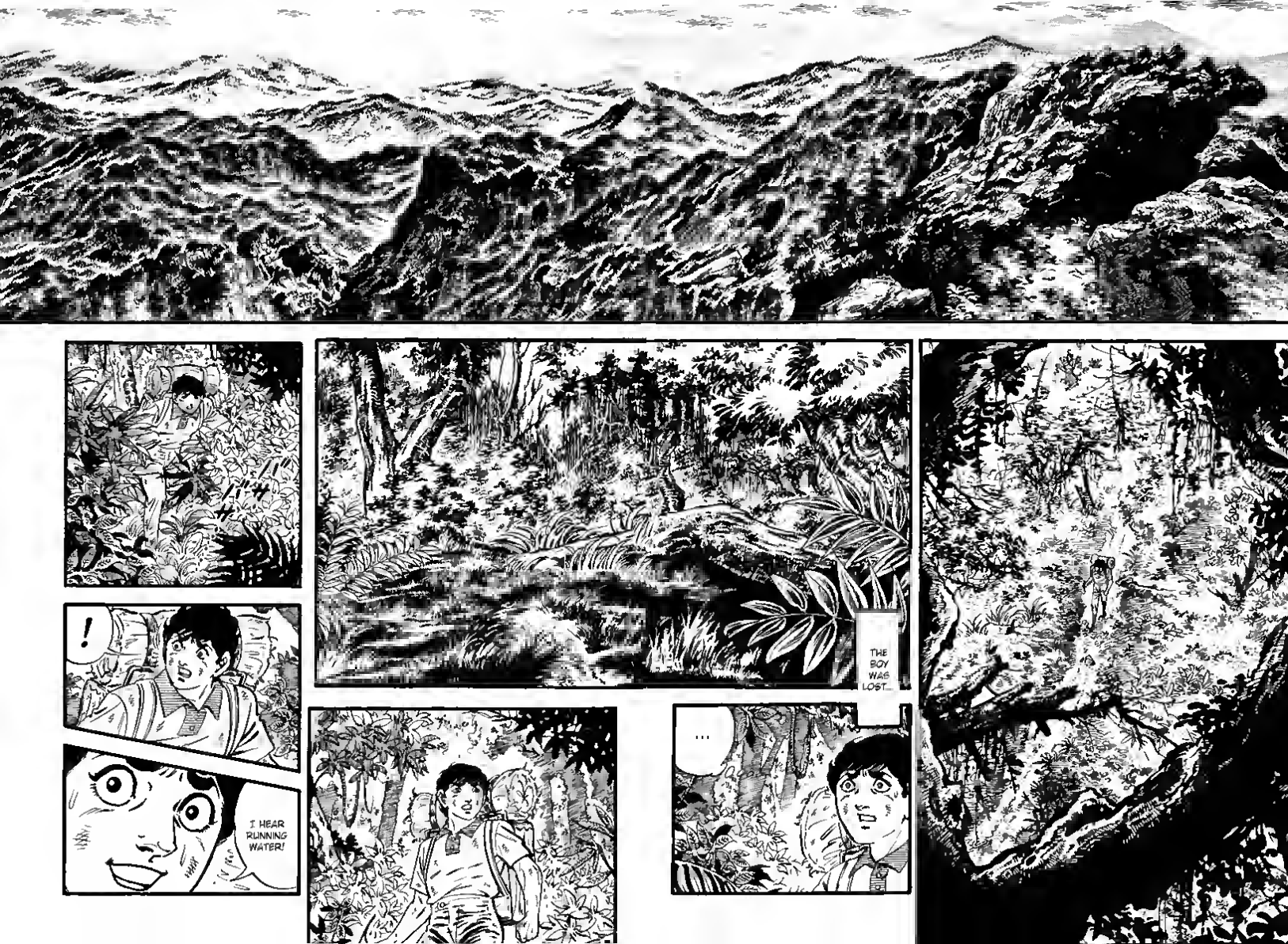
D... DAMN IT. I WAS AN IDIOT. I SPENT THE NIGHT DREAMING OF FISH YET...


!
I HEAR RUNNING WATER!
THE BOY WAS LOST...
...

AWAH!
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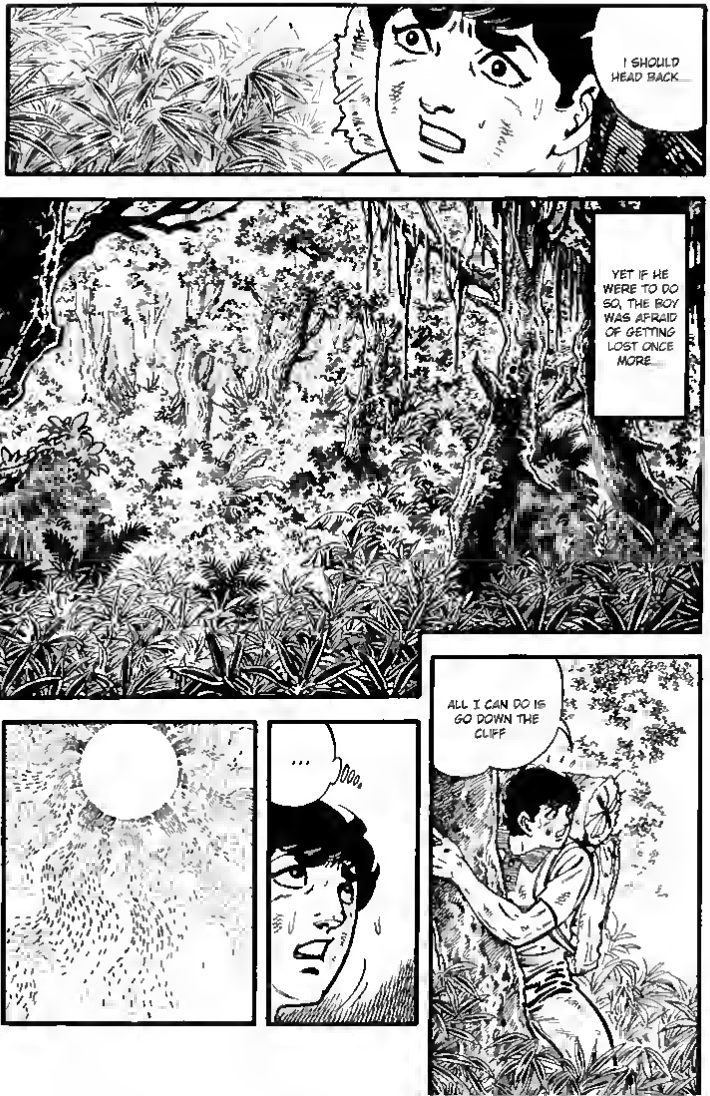
TH THIS IS A RISKY SPOT...


I SHOULD HEAD BACK...
YET IF HE WERE TO DO SO, THE BOY WAS AFRAID OF GETTING LOST ONCE MORE...
ALL I CAN DO IS GO DOWN THE CLIFF
...
Ooo.

HUNGER AND THIRST SPURRED THE BOY ON... HE COULD NOT BEAT THE TEMPTATION TO DRINK WATER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...
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HOWEVER, AS SOON AS HE BEGAN TO GO DOWN, HE FOUND HIS STRENGTH MORE LACKING THAN HE HAD EXPECTED... HE'D INTENDED TO HOLD HIMSELF IN PLACE, BUT HIS LEGS AND ARMS LACKED THE STRENGTH...
S... SHIT
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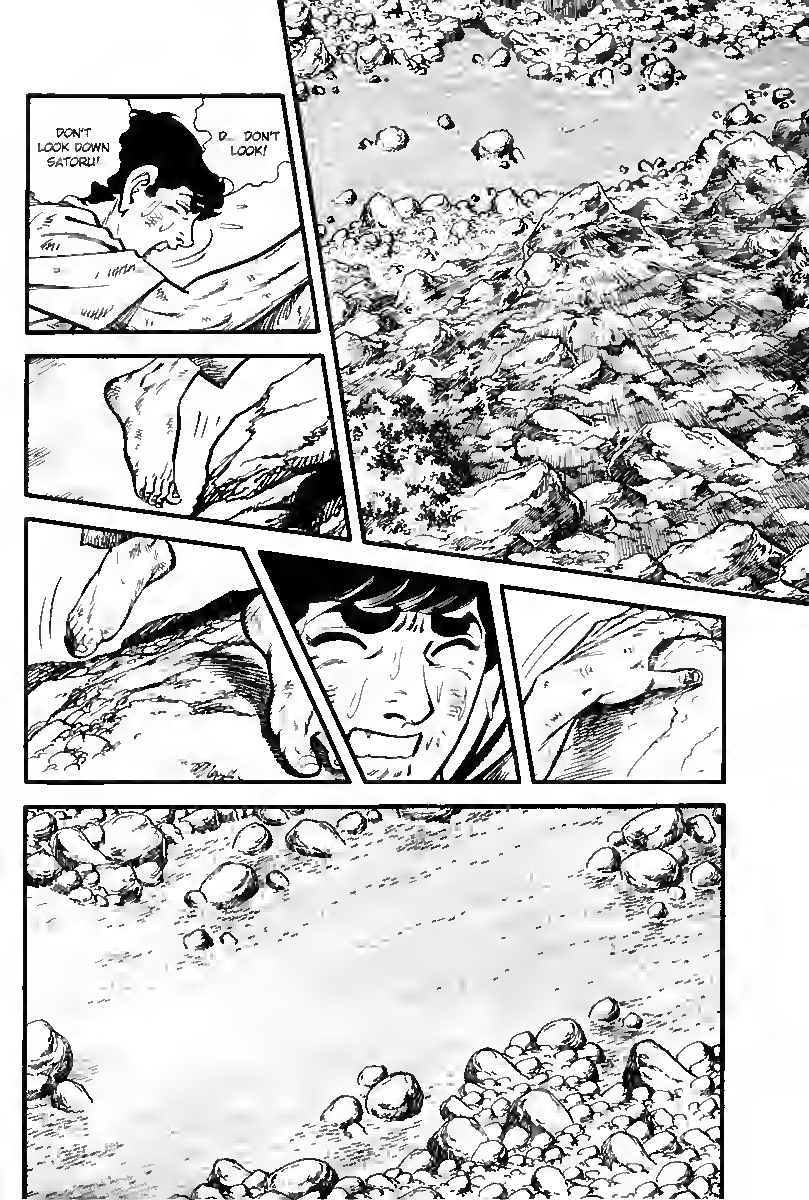
DON'T LOOK DOWN SATORU!
D... DON'T LOOK!

ズ…
M... MADE IT!
W
WATER
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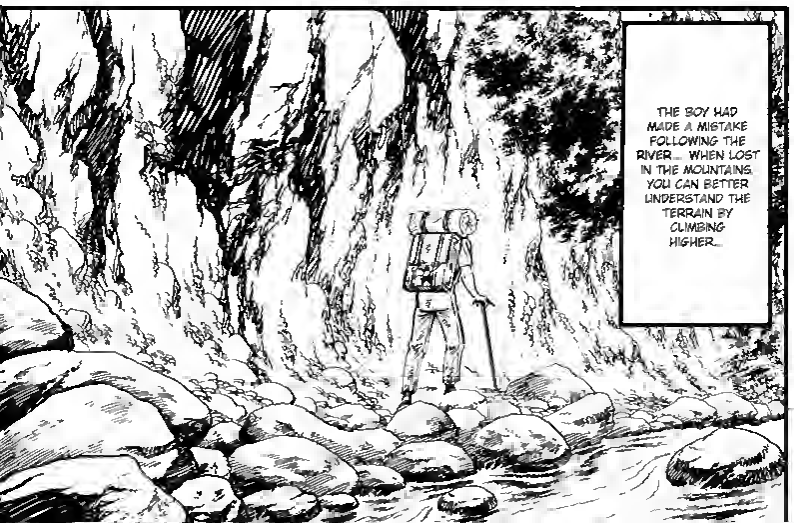
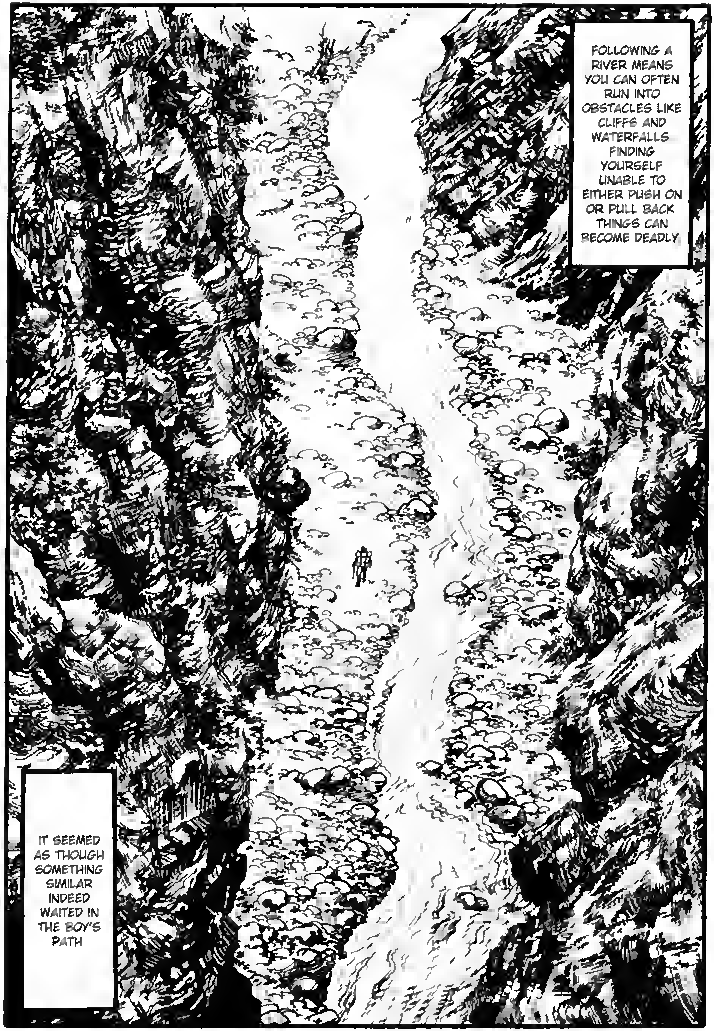
ガブ
!
TH... THE WATER'S SO GOOD
I FEEL BORN AGAIN!
PHEW...
TH... THERE MIGHT BE A SMALL SANITARY ISSUE...

I CAME DOWN A LONG WAY...
STILL...

JUST A LITTLE MORE PATIENCE... HANG IN THERE!
IF I FOLLOW THE RIVER, I'LL EVENTUALLY MAKE IT OUT OF HERE...
I... I HAVE TO FIND FOOD, AND FAST...


THE BOY HAD MADE A MISTAKE FOLLOWING THE RIVER... WHEN LOST IN THE MOUNTAINS, YOU CAN BETTER UNDERSTAND THE TERRAIN BY CLIMBING HIGHER...


FOLLOWING A RIVER MEANS YOU CAN OFTEN RUN INTO OBSTACLES LIKE CLIFFS AND WATERFALLS FINDING YOURSELF UNABLE TO EITHER PUSH ON OR PULL BACK THINGS CAN BECOME DEADLY
IT SEEMED AS THOUGH SOMETHING SIMILAR INDEED WAITED IN THE BOY'S PATH